

SION SHINING

IN

Gospel-Glory :

O R,

The Churches *Advancement* and
Saints *Engagement* in Gospel-times;
With some Hints of *Thankfullnesse* for
Englands *Deliverance* from the Popish
Plot of the *Powder-Treason*.

Being the summe of a SERMON

Preached at S^c Michaels in Cornhill,

London, upon the 5th of Novemb. 1651.

By T. W.

PROV. 4. 18.

The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more to the perfect day.

L O N D O N,

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To the early *Bud* of reall *Piety* M^r E. H.
encrease of *Grace* on *Earth*, and a
Crown of *Glory* in *Heaven*.



He sweet Discoveries you were pleased to make unto me of a gracious work upon your Soul, have exceedingly engag'd my Heart dearly to love you, as a Childe of God, highly to prize you as a Pearl in Grace, and really to respect you as an Heir of Glory. Truly I cannot but with dearest affections embrace the Darlings of Gods Bosom, and heartily love them whom God sets his Heart upon, and Christs sets as a Seal upon his own Heart. The Impression of Gods Image upon the Soul, renders it truly amiable and excellent to a spirituall eye. Sweet Saint! Me thinks when I see you, I cannot but look upon you (with admiration of the Riches of Gods Grace) as one whom I shall once behold blest with the bosom-embraces of Jesus Christ, and shining with an excellency of Glory, far surpassing the glorious lustre of the purest Sun-beams in the Kingdom of Heaven. Happy Soul! seeing God has crown'd your tender years with Grace, you have an assured Title to Eternity of Glory. The Spouse of Christ is spotlesse, all-fair, all-glorious within, her cloathing also is of wrought gold. And he that looks upon you with a spirituall eye, may he not behold you as a bright spark of the Spouses beauty? yea, is not all the Spouses beauty and excellency yours, while Christ is yours, Christ the Crown and glory of the Spouse and every Saint? Having therefore methodiz'd a few sweet Meditations upon the shining excellency of the Church of
A 2 God,

••••• The Epistle Dedicatorie.

God, the smiling Glory of Christs Spouse, I have presum'd to make them publick, that I might present them as a poor Pledge of that dear Affection and cordiall Respect which my Heart bears unto you. Read them therefore as written to, and of your self, as one through the Grace of Christ interess'd in the Churches Glory. What Christ speaks to his Spouse, that apply to your own Soul, as if you heard a voice from Heaven saying, **ARISE SHINE.** Blesse God with your whole Heart, that He has invested you in the Churches Priviledges, and labour to finde your self quickned thereby to all Christian Performances. Take heed of Pride, take heed of Self-love, take heed of Hypocrisie. These are the cankers that will eat out the very heart of your comforts, and vex your soul with restlesse torments. Humility, Self-deniall and Sincerity, will beautifie the Beauty of all your Excellencies. Continue still to seek your God daily in secret. Present Him with an humble and empty Heart, and He will fill it with his saving Grace and sacred Comforts. Secret Refreshings are marvellously sweet to the Soul. Walk humbly with your God throughout the day, as seeing Him that is invisable, and your Soul shall be more fit to maintain a Holy, Spirituall, Evangelicall Communion with God in Duty whensoever he shall call you thcreunto. Labour to grow in Grace: Be not asham'd of Holiness: Study in all things to please God. The more Holy you are, the more Happy you shall be, the more of Heaven you shall have on Earth, and the more Assurance that you shall at length change Earth for Heaven. Now that the God of all Grace and Glory would enrich you with his saving Mercy, refresh you with his sweetest Comforts, and at length advance you to his glorious Kingdom, is the summe of his hearty Prayers for you, who is

Tours in Christ Jesus, T.W.



To the Ingenuous Christian Reader.



*See here a few Meditations
which having been offered to
the Ear, are now presented to
the Eye: I have adventur'd
them forth to try the Temper
of the Times, the genius of this Gene-
ration. If they shall gain the Approba-
tion of those who love the Lord's Sion,
and the Lord Jesus (Sions glorious Guar-
dian-Angel) in sincerity, I shall finde
(I hope) my Heart warm'd and en-
larg'd into further Meditations of the
same kinde, and shall be also encouraged
to a communication of them: yea and ma-
ny Meditations which are predecessours to
these in birth, may then also (perhaps)
become their successors upon the Worlds
stage. If these be condemn'd (though I
know them innocent) to be burnt, I shall
never Willingly make any more of my Chil-*

To the Reader.

dren passe through the fire. If my Thoughts please not others, I shall be content to reserve them for the future to my self, untill it shall please the Lord to enrich me with better Treasure. However, I have cast in this poor Mite into the Lords Treasury, who graciously accepts of his servants, not according to what they have not, but according to what they have. From him alone proceeds all good, and to Him alone be ascrib'd all Glory by the Church of Christ, throughout all Ages, and to all Eternity. Amen.


(1)



SION SHINING IN Gospel-Glory.

Σὺν Θεῷ.

ISA. 60. 1. *Arise, shine.*

lorious things are spoken of thee, O City of God. Many gracious promises and glorious priviledges make Sion the glory of the world, and Jerusalem the praise of the whole earth. The sweet Spouse of the great King is presented to us by this Evangelicall Prophet in her rich Attire and excellent Ornaments for Beauty and Glory. She that lay polluted with blood, and sullied with dust, being washt in blood, and sanctified through grace, is prepared for the bosome of her glorious Redeemer. Know ye not (O beloved) the beauty of her Grace, the

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excel-

excellency of her *Glory*? *Arise, be enlightened, come and see.* This Prophet opens unto you her well-furnisht *Chamber*, and here presents you with the golden *Key* of her costly *Closet*. Here behold,

1. The glorious *Lamp* of the *Gospel* put into the *hand* of the Church, who is commanded to hold it forth that it may pour out its *light* to the *World*, v.1.---3.

2. The mighty *concourse* out of many Nations of *Sions converts* to this glorious *Light*, and the brightnesse of this burning *Lamp*, v.4,---14.

3. A glorious *Crown* of eternall *Excellency* set by the *hand* of God upon the *head* of the Spouse of Christ, possessor of a blessed *Paradise* of everlasting *peace*, v.15,---ult.

This is thine *Excellency*, O *Sion*, this is thy *Glory*, O *Jerusalem*: *Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*

Arise, shine.

Here's a *Precept* pregnant with a *Promise*: The Spirit of *God* deals forth *comfort* wrapt up in a *command*; For God assures that he will *cause* his Church to *arise and shine*, in this that he *commands* her, *Arise, shine.*

Consider

Consider this in relation to the Church in general, and to particular Saints.

Consider'd in relation to the Church in generall, it hints sundry particular observations, which we shall briefly passe over.

Arise, shine. Then note, that

The Church may be sometimes in a *Obfer. 1.*
cloud, The Sun may for a time wear sackloth, the Stars may loose their light, the Temple may be full of smoak, and the Ark wrapt up in darknesse. A mist may cover the face of Canaan, and a thick cloud may rest upon Jerusalem. God loves to beautifie the Face of Time with some spots of darknesse. God delights in chequering the world with interchanges of light and darknesse, day and night. The returns of darknesse do illustrate the beauty of light, That light is most beautifull, amiable and acceptable, that's born out of the womb of the thickest darknesse. The Sun shines forth most clearly when it hath washt its beams in the waters of the Clouds. Then let not any Star think it strange that it is sometimes obscured, when the Sun it self may be Eclipt, and the Constellations of Heaven mask'd in darknesse.

Arise

Arise, shine. Then,

2. There are *castings* down before *liftings* up, *Clouds* before *clearnesse*, *Darknesse* (as in the Old so in the New *Creation*) before *light*. The Church is called to *Arise*, therefore she was yet down; She is commanded to *Shine*, therefore she was yet dark. Despair not then, poor dejected souls, who lie down in *darknesse* and see no *light*; when you have a while with sad hearts sorrowed for your *sins*, your *light* will break forth as the morning, and you shall hear this sweet Gospel-voice, *Arise, shine.*

Arise, shine. Then,

3. There's an *excellency* in the Church of God, a bright and shining *excellency*. This is the *Sun* of the lower world, which shall at length shine in the highest heavens. The Saints have their *lustre*, which is nothing else but the *reflection* of those glorious beams of *grace*, which are shed from the Sun of *Righteousnesse* upon them. This is the *Woman* cloth'd with the *Sun*, that hath the *Moon* under her feet, and upon her head a *Crown* of twelve Stars, *Rev. 12. 1.* This is she that is come to excellent *Ornaments*, and crowned

crowned with perfection of beauty, through Christs own comelineſſe put upon her, *Ezek. 16. 7, -- 14.* She is all *Fair*, all *Glorious* within, through the *Glory* of God ariſen upon her, *Cant. 4. 7. Pſal. 45. 13.* The Church of God is the *Crown* of the earth, and the *Glory* of the world. The world is wrapt in *darkneſſe* till ſhe Ariſe and ſhine. Horrible are the attempts of the Churches *Perſecutors*. Hel- liſh *darkneſſe* would ſoon over-ſpread the earth, if the Churches *light* were once extinguiſht. O ye ſtrangers of the world ! You that lie *muffled* in *midnight*, even in the Gospels *midday*, liſt up your heads, behold and admire the Churches *excellencies*. Leave your dark dens of ſin and profaneſſe, and come to her ſhining *light*. Be raviſht with the beauty of her *Grace*, and admire the brightneſſe of her *Glory*. Walk in her light, and you ſhall partake in her *brightneſſe* and *beauty*.

Ariſe, ſhine. Then take notice that

A Gospel-ſtate is a glorious ſtate, a
Heaven upon Earth. The ſtate of the
Church of God under the Gospel is more
glorious then under the Law, *Iſa. 60. 17.*
2Cor. 3. 7, -- ult. Herein are more clear and
glo-

glorious manifestations of *Christ*, dispensations of *Grace*, communications of the *Spirit*; more abundance of spirituall and glorious *mercies*, *gifts* and *endowments*. The state of grace under the Gospel is nothing lesse then the *Kingdom of heaven* upon earth, *Mat. 3. 2.* Heaven is open'd under the *Gospel*, and Believers enter in, and are invested with glorious *privileges*, and inrich'd with glorious *enjoyments*. This is that *Heaven*, wherein God's *Saints* shine as so many *Stars* in the lustre of that glorious *light* which they derive from the Sun of *Righteousnesse*. This *Evangelical* condition is an *Angelical* condition, wherein Gods *Saints* (those bright *morning-stars*) sing for joy, and record the glorious *praises* of their gracious *Redeemer*. Gospel-*Times* are glorious *Times*, Gospel-*mercies* are glorious *mercies*, Gospel-*graces* are (as I may say) glorious *graces*, Gospel-*comforts* are glorious *comforts*, Gospel-*Salvation* is a glorious *Salvation*. Happy are we that live in Gospel-*times*, Oh that we could but embrace Gospel-*Truths*! happy are we that have Gospel-*seasons*, Oh that we were but Gospel-*Saints*. O how are we to admire the riches of Gods *grace*,
that

that he is pleased to vouchsafe us his glorious *Gospel*. Let us then labour to adorn this glorious *Gospel* by gracious *courses*. The *day-spring* from on high hath visited us, and the glorious *light* of the *Gospel* shines round about us; let us then cast off the works of *darknesse*, and put on the Armour of *light*; let's cease to *sin*, arise and *shine* in the *lustre* of this *light* that shines upon us.

Arise, shine. Know then,

When God pours out light and lustre upon his *Church*, she must pour it out into the *world*. When Christ puts a burning *Lamp* into the hand of his Spouse, she must give *light* to the Nations that sit in *darknesse* and the *shadow* of death. The *Sun* pours his light upon the *Moon* and *Stars*, and these pour it out with many pretious influences upon the *earth*. When Jesus Christ the *Sun* of Righteousnesse pours out the *light* of the *Gospel*, with influences of *love* upon his *Church* and *Saints*, they must likewise pour out the same upon the *world* and *sinners*. When God sets up his *Golden-candlestick* at *Jerusalem*, 'tis that it might give light to the *Cities* round about. O then let every

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every *Star* shine to encrease the lustre of this *light*, and let *sinners* come to the brightnesse of this *shining*, that they may see the way of *life*, leading to eternall *Glory*, lest otherwise they be shut up under everlasting *darknesse* and damnation, See *Mat. 5. 14, 15, 16.*

Doct. *Arise, shine.* Now let's consider the words as they bear reference to, particular Saints, and they'l import thus much; The Saints of God in Gospel-times shall and must Arise and shine. They shall, for this *Precept* implies a *Promise*: They must, for this *Promise* is lockt up in a *Precept*, Arise, shine. This is the Saints *Dignity*, this their *Duty*.

1 Branch 1. They shall, they must Arise; They must not lie down still in *darknesse*, when the *light* shines, and the Spirit saies, Arise, Arise from the

1. 1. *Pit of horror* and the *dungeon* of *darknesse*, whereinto they have been cast by conviction: God doth indeed cast down, but doth not keep down his Elect in this dark and sad condition. God brings sinners to Heaven by the Gates of Hell. While they lie under conviction, their *sin*s, like swarms of Bees, encompasse them, arm'd with fiery, poysonous stings, the

the *Wrath* of God flames against them, the *Terrors* of the *Almighty* surround them, and the unspeakable *Torments* of *Hell* amaze them, their own *Conscience* (which should be a *Port of Peace* to a troubled Spirit) being full of *Horror* and *Confusion*, is a very *Hell* unto them. In this wofull condition when they are now ready to enter by the Gate of *Despair* into the Kingdom of everlasting *Darknesse*, God calls to them in the sweet voice of the Gospel, saying, *Return, Return, Repent, Repent*, and believe the Gospel, and live for evermore; your sins are pardonable, your sins are pardoned. Christ, and Heaven, and Glory, and all are yours everlastingly. And withall he breaks the *Chains* of their *Corruptions*, beats back the fiery darts of their *Temptations*, takes them by the hand, and leads them out of the dark *Prison* of sin into the sweet *Paradise* of Grace, and speaks *Peace, Peace* to their souls, and so gives them possession of true, real, spirituall and lasting *Comfort, Contentment, and Joy*.

2. *Dust of affliction, and deeps of distress.*
God sometimes leads his people down)
from the mountains of joy into the valleys
of

of sorrow. He eclipses for a time the *light* of life, and covers them with the *shadow* of death. God doth not alwaies feed his children with the *Honey* of his *Promises*; the *marrow* of his *comforts*, the *sweetnesse* of his *love*, but sometimes he gives them the *bread* of *adversity* to eat, and the *waters* of *affliction* to drink, and causeth them to sit down in a state of *darknesse* and *desertion*. But he is a tender-hearted *Father*, his *Bowels* are soon moved towards them, and so he shews them his pleased *face*, speaks to them in the voice of *kindnesse* and *love*, cals them to his *embraces*, and receives them into the bosome of his sweetest and soul-contenting *mercies*: He brings glorious *Advantages* out of these grievous *Afflictions* to their immortall souls. See 2 Cor. 4. 17.

3. 3. *Dunghil* of *Contempt*, and *mire* of *Disgrace*. God raises his servants from the *Dunghil*, to sit with *Princes* on the *Throne*. He washes off the *mire* from their feet, and brings them up to his holy *Hill Mount Sion*. Wicked men who are as *Swine*, rooting in the *Dunghill* of the *Earth*, trample Gods *Jewels*, his *Pearls*, under their feet: but they are still precious in Gods account, and he will cause their

their shining *brightnesse* to appear: Gods *precious* Saints are often vilified by the *vilest* men in the Earth, they are made as the *filth* of the world, and the *off-scouring* of all things, 1 Cor. 4. 13. But God will at length *clothe* them with *Excellency* and *Honour*, and *crown* them with eternall *Glory*. The world delights to cast the mire of Disgrace into the *Faces* of those that bear the blessed *Image* of God himself: But he that will at length wipe away all *Tears* from their eyes, will also wash away all such *opprobrious Imputations*, and cause them to shine as the *Stars* in the Firmament for ever and ever. Wicked men with the sharp Razors of their own malicious tongues *wound* the Names of Gods dearest Saints, and labour to *bury* them in Ignominy and everlasting Contempt, but God will *heal* their Names, give them a glorious *Resurrection*, and an everlasting blessed *Memoriall*: They study to cast the only *Excellent* down from their *Excellency*, but God will *advance* them to eternall *Glory*. Notwithstanding all the *weight of Reproaches* the wicked lay upon them, God will put forth his *Almighty Arm*, and they shall arise: See *Psal. 68. 13.*

2 Branch. 2. They shall, they must shine: As they have had a time of sinning and a time of sorrow, so they shall have a time of *shining* and a time of joy. They are commanded and shall and must shine in the

1. 1. *Spotlesse lustre of Christs Righteousnesse.* Every Saint is cloathed with the *Sun.* God makes all his children *Priests*, and hath provided for them *holy Garments* for *Beauty* and *Glory*; He enstals them *Kings*, and cloathes them with *Royall Robes*, far richer, far purer then *Cloth of Gold*. These Robes are none other then Gods own Son the *King of Glory* himself hath worn on Earth. They are the rich *Robes* of his perfect Righteousnesse, so pure, that Gods own all-discerning Eye cannot discover one spot in them. Saints must needs *shine* when they are drest in such rich Apparrell. The Sun it self the *Fountain of Light*, whose face is too glorious for us mortals stedfastly to behold, is but a *darke some more* in comparison of the bright and *shining Lustre* of this rich Attire. *Glorious* is the cloathing of every gracious soul.

2. 2. *Excellent Ornaments of saving Graces.*
Every Saint is as a little *Heaven* full of
shining

shining Stars. God cloathes all his children with white Garments of *Sanctification*, all-bespangled with sparkling precious Pearls of heavenly and Divine Graces, as *Faith, Repentance, Love, Hope, Obedience, Sincerity, Humility, &c.* There is not one of these but is worth ten thousand times more then a world of Gold, being as it were a *Ray* of God, a *Pledge* of his eternall Love, and a *Character* of Glory, Rampt upon the soul. There is a chain of these Heavenly Graces wherewith God adorns the souls of his Children, to which is annexed *Glory* it self, as a Gem of infinite excellency and invaluable worth. See *2 Pet. 1. 3, 4, 5, 6.* Now the united splendour of these Heavenly Graces must needs beautifie the soul with an admirable *Excellency* and shining Lustre.

3. *Beautifull garments of Salvation.* Every childe of God sits incircled with eternall smiles from the Face of God, and thence hath cause to be everlastingly merry. All the Saints are welcome guests to the Gospels Feast, *Isa. 25. 6.* where that nothing may be wanting for their full Contentment and Delight, they are cloathed by Gods own hand with *Excellency* garments, and anointed with the

sweet *Oyl* of joy and gladnesse. O how can the Saints of God choose but *smile* and *shine* in joy, who are admitted to such a Heart-contenting Feast. O what immortall joys must needs spring up in the Hearts of Gods children, from a lively apprehension of the infinite sweetnesse and excellency of the *Love* of God, and the invaluable preciousnesse of his *Grace* which they enjoy, the dreadfull and everlastin^g *Tormenes* of Hell fire, which they have escap'd, and the incomprehensibly glorious and eternall *Joys* of Heaven, whereof they shall shortly be possesse, besides those many sweet and gracious *comforts* wherewith Jesus Christ hath already crown'd their thrice happy souls: Thus the *Day-stars* of Grace cannot but shine on *Earth*, which are already prepar'd to be eternally fixt in Heaven.

Thus having past through these particulars, we come to the Use.

Use.

Herein let the holy Ghost speak to your Hearts; Arise, shine, O ye *Saints* of God, and *Sons* of the Most High. The *Night* is now past, and the *Day* is come, yea, far spent, the *Sun* of Righteousnesse is drawing nigh to the highest *Point* of his glorious *Ascent*, and darts forth his gracious

gracious, reviving *beams* into the lowest and humblest hearts: Rouze up your selves therefore O ye children of God, lift up your heads, Arise, shine.

1. *Put on the Royall Robes of Christs Righteousnesse.* See your own *nakednesse*, and blush to behold the shame of your *nakednesse*: See the Wardrobe of the Gospel open, and Christ Jesus with his own hands offering you the *rich Robes* of his own Righteousnesse: Put forth the hand of Faith, and put them upon your naked souls; so Christ will embrace you as his *Brethren*, God will embosome you as his *children*, the Angels of Heaven will at length with shouting entertain you in the mansions of Eternity, as *Heirs* of Glory. 1.

2. *Deck your selves with the Pearls of Heaven.* See Gods Cabinet is unlockt for you: Get your Hearts furnisht with sanctifying *Graces*, the souls *Jewels*. God hath given you the *Key* of Heaven, Prayer, and the *wings* of Faith and Love to mount up thither: Away then, and fetch thence daily what precious *Ornaments* soever you want to render your souls beautifull and amiable in the eyes of your *Beloved*. Put on these *Ornaments* daily, and 2.

wear them continually. They'l be the brighter for the wearing. So at length you shall put off some of your *Ornaments* of grace, and put on ever-shining *Robes* of Glory.

3.

3. *Unmask your smiling faces, and send forth your Rays of joy; For God smiles and shines upon you. Unlock your joyfull Hearts, and pour forth your souls in praises; for God hath unlock't the Ark of his Covenant, and unfolded the Riches of his Grace for your eternall Good. The Lord himself rejoices over you, and calls upon you to rejoyce in the Lord, Psa. 33. 1. Phil. 4. 4. Psa. 32. 11. Serve the Lord with Joyfullnesse and Gladnesse of heart for his abundant Goodnesse and Love to you in the Lord Jesus Christ. Burnish your Christian Profession and adorn the Gospel with Joyfulness. Reflect the beams of Gods Love with Rays of spirituall Joy. With Joy draw Waters of life out of the Wells of salvation. With Joy walk on in the Paths of Righteousnesse, untill you shall come to Sion with singing Hallelujah's, and everlasting Joys upon your heads.*

Object.

But here the Saints of God themselves may object: Rejoice? should we rejoyce when our finnes cry? should we rejoyce when

when *Syon* weeps? Can we, ought we to rejoice when our sins and the abominations of the Land are daily multiply'd, and the wrath of God provok'd against us? When the wayes of *Syon* mourn, and the gates of *Jerusalem* are desolate? does not God rather call to mourning, and weeping, and lamentation?

I answer; 'Tis true, these things ought *Answ.* to be taken to heart with hearty grief and lamentation: And oh, that we could pour out our hearts in abundant sorrowes for these Abominations, and in melting Compassions over the bleeding Miseries of Gods people! O that our Heads were Waters, and our Eyes Fountains of Tears, that we might weep day and night for the slain of the People of the Lord, and the Abominations that are be found in the City of our God. These things are a Lamentation, and shall be for a Lamentation. But yet withall consider;

1. *These Clouds will not obscure your* *Note.*
Clearnesse, These sorrowes are consistent *1.*
with your joyes. Sensuall joy and grief
mutually expell one another, but spiri-
tuall joy and grief, as loving twins bred in
the same womb, though successively
born, live together in the same sanctified

soul. Yea, the more your Hearts grieve for sinne, the more will your souls rejoyce in the God of your salvation.

2. *These mourning Blacks will beautifie your shining brightnesse.* This spirituall sorrow will encrease the lustre of your Evangelicall joy. These showers of grief will beautifie your beams of joy; your sorrowfull sighs will encrease the beauty of your joyfull smiles. Sad Tears dropping from such smiling Eyes, are such Pearls, as God will treasure them up every one in his bottle. Sweet Smiles shining through a shower of Tears, are such sparkles as will ascend to Heaven and be crown'd with Acceptance.

3. *There's light of joy sown in the darknesse of these sorrowes.* Psal. 97. 11. The blessing of God crowns the Heads, and the comforts of God shall fill the Hearts of such mourners in Sion. Mat. 5. 4. The pretious seed of spirituall sorrowes, will bring a plenteous Harvest of eternal joys. Psal. 126. 5, 6. Who mix therefore their mirth with mourning, shall have their sorrowes concluded with everlasting glorious joyes.

Coroll.

Let's close these Considerations with these Corollaries.

1. Weep

1. *Weep your Beams.* Dart forth streaming beams of joy, and pour out beaming streams of grief. Rejoice with trembling, Psal. 2. 11. Sweeten your mourning with mirth, and season your mirth with mourning. The Base of Godly Sorrow join'd in Consort with the Treble of Spirituall Gladnesse, makes the best Melody in the ears of God.

1.

2. *Wash your Smiles in Tears, and beautifie your Mirth with Mourning,* the Beauty of your Beauty. Bathe your shining Souls in Sorrowes and they'll shine the brighter. The choicest Beauty consists of a pure Whitenesse with some mixture of a clear ruddinesse, being actuated with a sparkling liveliness, the soul of Beauty: so a serene and smiling soul with a bleeding heart enliven'd by the sanctifying Spirit of grace, make up the most perfect Beauty in the eyes of God. Learn then so to temper your joy with sorrow, that both may be more acceptable unto God.

2.

3. *Sowe your Seed of Sorrowes, that you may reap your Harvest of Joyes.* Sowe your Seed in the Night, and you shall reap your Fruit in the Morning. Fill Gods bottle with Tears, and hee'll give you for

3.

for

for every drop a *Pearl*. Let your Heart bleed for your grievous *sins*, and God will at length crown your soul with glorious *joyes*. Weep for *Jerusalem* and you shall sing in *Sion*. Mourn for the sorrows of the *Saints*, and you shall rejoice for joy with them. Lay a deep foundation in sorrow for your *sins*, and God will crown your *Building* of Grace with the *Top-stone* of Glory.

Thus far we have considered the words in reference to the *Glorious Priviledges* of the Gospel of Christ, wherewith God hath crown'd his Church and Saints; now let's apply them to you that are the children of the Church, of the *society* of the Saints in reference to the glorious *Deliverance* that the great God hath wrought for his English *Sion*, from the *Popish Plot* of the *Powder-Treason*, a mercy to be celebrated this day with Praises, and to be commemorated throughout all generations. Behold, O ye Saints, the Lord of hosts hath brought *salvation* this day to *Sion*: Rejoyce and be glad, *Arise, shine*. O let the high praises of the most high God, be this day in your hearts and months. Take a large *prospect* of the Lords mercies, and then lift up your voices in
joyfull

joyfull acclamations of *Hallelujah*. And that you may rightly celebrate the glorious *solemnities* of the great King,

1. Take your *Lamps* in your hands, and view that *Den of darknesse*, wherein the hellish *Monster* that would have devour'd Gods holy Ones, was almost hatcht. A dark Vault there was under the Parliament House, where this deadly Monster brooded by Popish Policy, should have been brought forth, had it not been stopt and stifled in the birth, through Divine mercy, by the hand of the All-knowing, and All-powerfull God. This was a work of *darknesse* in a place of *darkness*, the contrivance of the children of *darknesse*, by the instigation of the Prince of *darknesse*, against the children of *Light*. Thus a *Vail* of darkness was drawn over the foul face of this horrible wickednesse. This was an *hidden enterprize* against Gods *hidden ones*. Had this taken effect, *hell* had broken loose from the bowels of *earth*. This was an attempt to have *blown* up with one *blast* from the mouth of *hell*, the *Parliament*, *Prince* and *Peers*, and so suddenly to have involved our *pleasant* and *peaceable* Land in *confusion* and *blood*. For had but this *Thunder-cloud* burst, many *showers* of *blood* had been

Duty.

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been poured down upon *England*. This was Satans strange *Engine*, by which he would have attempted to have sent up many *bodies* in a *moment*, nearer to *heaven*, that he might have drawn down many thousand *souls* for ever into the bottom of *hell*. For surely, if the *Head* had been cut off, the *body* would have soon dy'd; if the *Mother* had been slain, the *children* of her bosome, that hung at her breasts, would have presently perish'd: If the *Light* had been put forth by this poysonous *earth-damp*, the people of the Land would not only have been wrapt in *darknes*, but have been stifled with this noisom *Fog*. Yet out of this *Fog* would have issued that *fire* that would have set all *England* into a *flame*, and have burnt up the bodies of Gods dearest and pretious Saints. But Satan was chain'd up by an Omnipotent hand that he could not so much as spit *fire*, to fright the children of God.

2. Put off your *shoes* from your feet, and walk up to Mount *Sion*, and behold the Lord in his *Glory*, who hath vouchsafed this miraculous *mercy* and seasonable *salvation* to his Saints. Lift up your eyes to the *hills* from which the *help* of Gods *Israel* comes.

comes in all the times of their *distress* and *danger*. Get your souls sublimed in heavenly *contemplations* of the *Wisdom*, *power* and *goodnesse* of that great God, whose wakefull Eye of *Providence* continually watcheth over his *Church* and chosen Ones. He that sits upon a *Throne* of glory in the highest heavens, and with his All-discerning Eye discovers the *depths* of darkness and the *deeds* of men, brought forth this work of *darkness* into *light*, to the *confusion* of his enemies, and the *consolation* of all his faithfull Ones. *This was the Lords doing, and how wonderfull should it appear in our eyes!* O come with humble reverence to the God of mercy, and cast your selves down at his feet with lowliest admiration of his wonderfull goodness to an excessively sinfull Land. O how ill have we requited the Lord for his love! And yet the Lord before he vouchsafed this favour, knew what our *Requitall* would be. O the admirable *Kindnesse* of our God! The *unworthinesse* of the sons of men doth not obstruct the way of those sweet *mercies*, that flow from the Fountain of free Love. O prostrate your selves with humblest Adoration, at
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the footstool of the God of *Glory*, who in his wonderfull Works to the sons of men, acts meerly out of free *Grace*. The Lord saw when the *Design* was laid, and said, *Hitherto shalt thou proceed and no further*. It was the hand of God that drew the *Curtain*, and discovered what wickednesse was coucht in the dark. When the Land was ready to be overspread with *darknesse*, 'twas the Lord that cover'd it with *Light*. When Popish Agents (those bloudy *Philistines*) thought and hoped to have obscur'd the *Glory* of *Israel*, the Lord still preserv'd the *Ark* of his Truth. When the great red *Dragon* attempted to draw the *Stars* from *Heaven*, the great and mighty God cast him into the bottom of hell. God caused the *destruction* plotted against his own People to fall upon the heads of their enemies. This is thy God, O *Israel*, this is thy Saviour, O *Sion*; this is thy Lord-Protector, O *England*.

3. 3. Prepare your *Hearts* (in stead of *Harps*) to joyn in a gracious *Consort*, to sing forth the glorious *Praises* of the only wise and strong God, your Saviour.

our. Labour to winde up your hearts to the highest pitch of hearty praisefullnesse and thanksgiving. Say with *Moses*, *Exod. 15. 11.* *Who is like unto thee, O Lord, amongst the gods! Who is like unto thee, Glorious in holinesse, Fearfull in Praises, doing Wonders!* To heighten your hearts into spirituall Raptures of Angelical *Hallelujah's*, consider that Religion it self, the Glorious Gospel and Precious Ordinances of *Jesus Christ*, are particular priviledges, which as to the Continuance and Preservation of them, are wrapt up in this great Deliverance wherewith the mercifull hand of God hath Crown'd this sinfull Nation. Had this hellish Plot taken effect, Oh how had our pretious souls been posson'd with Popery! How had the Glorious, reviving, enriching, advancing Mysteries of the Gospel, been lockt up in an unknown Tongue! How had our Waters been im-bitter'd with Gall and Wormwood, and our Rivers turned to bland! How had our immortall souls been starv'd to eternall dearth, for want of spirituall food! Oh how had we lived in darknesse, died in sinne, and dropt into hell! Now reckon

reckon up the precious *Mercies* and glorious *Favours* that have been brought unto *England*, and home to your own *soules*, by the *door* of this *Deliverance*, and you will see and say that you have infinite cause to praise the Lord to eternity. O you that have had your *drooping* spirits and *dying* hearts *reviv'd* and wonderfully *refresh't* with the precious influences of grace, falling in Gods *Ordinances*, What are these *Ordinances* worth? You that have had your *hard* and *sinfull* hearts *softned* and *sanctifi'd* by the distilling dews of grace in the *Gospel* of Christ, What is this *Gospel* worth? You that have had your *empty* and *humble* hearts fill'd with a *Heaven* of glorious Joys in *Communion* with Jesus Christ, What is the injoyment of such a sweet, Evangelicall, Soul-ravishing *Fellowship* with Christ Jesus worth? O pretious *Christ*! O incomparable *Mercies*! O unutterable *Joyes*! You would not, no (I know) you would not lose these glorious *Gospel-Favours*, for ten thousand worlds of Gold. O pretious souls, now you have pretious Christ, communicating himself to you
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in his blessed Ordinances! O ye humble hearts, now you have the Spirit of God breathing you with living Graces, and breathing into the sweetest sacred Confessions. O happy Saints, now the Windows of Heaven are opened, and plenteous showers of Grace, infinitely more precious than showers of Gold are poured out upon you. The doors of Gods House stand open, and you may enjoy that one thing in which the desires of the Saints are all sum'd up. You may dwell in the House of the Lord, happily all the daies of your life, to behold the Beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his holy Temple, *Psal. 27. 4.* Gods Treasury is wide open, you may store your selves with blessings. Gods Cabinet is unlock'd, you may enrich your selves with Jewels and Pearls of price, with living and sanctifying Graces, The Fountain of Life is unsealed, and you may drink freely, and be satisfied with living Consolations. Now God drops Pearls out of heaven, and strews the earth with *Manna*. O how pleasant now are the paths of Salvation, which God hath strew'd all along with the flowers of his

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love. Blessed are you Beleevers, you now have a habitation in *Jerusalem*, who might have been slain in the streets of *Rome*: You dwell now in *Sion*, who might have liv'd in *Sodom*: You are now in a *Heaven* on this side *Heaven*, who might have been in a *hell* before you had been in *hell*. Oh what shall we render to the Lord for this his wonderfull goodness to us: Let us even take up the *Cup of salvation* and praise the Name of the Lord. God hath inrich't us with the *gold of Sion*, O come therefore and let us offer up unto him the *Incense of Praise*. O ye children of the Most high God, Behold the *night* is past, the *darknesse* of Popery, and the *mists* of superstition are disperst and dispel'd, and the *Sun* of the Gospel (by a miracle of divine mercy) *stands still* in our Horizon; your Light is continued, and the glory of the Lord resteth upon you, *Arise, shine*. Trim up this day your shining *Lamps of Joy*, fill them with the sweet *Oyl of Love*, and let them burn and blaze up to the *Heavens* in a holy *Flame of Praise*: Set them burning upon the *Altars* of your broken hearts, and they shall burn in the Temple of

in Gospel-glory.

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of the Lord for ever: *Arise* therefore
ye Saints and *shine* on *Earth*: This *De-*
liverance is but the *shadow* of a greater:

For though you lie down at length
and sleep a while in your *Graves*,
yet you shall *Arise* and *shine* in
Heaven with a perfect Radi-
ancy of incomprehensible
Glory throughout all
Eternity, *Amen.*

Δόξα Θεῷ.

